Political initiative to tackle insurgency problems

1443. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking political initiative to tackle the insurgency problems apart from the deployment of army and paramilitary forces in the district of North Cachar Hills in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the Initiatives being taken by Government; and

(c) whether it is a fact that insurgent groups are seen side by side of the army and para-military forces in the whole of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India have made appeals to all the militant groups which include DHD to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks without conditions. Government are also committed to the speedy economic development of the North Cachar Hills.

(c) No Sir.

Inclusion of disabled persons in census 2000

1444. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to incorporate the number of disabled persons in census 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Data on infirmities was collected in the earlier Censuses of

1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931. Subsequently, due to the serious doubts expressed by the then Census Commissioners about the authenticity and quality of data collected on disabled population, the enumeration of physically handicapped persons was discontinued during 1941 Census. It was felt that questions on disabled population did not lend themselves to a census enquiry since these did not seem to provide accurate data. In subsequent Censuses of 1951, 1961 and 1971 the question on disabilities was not canvassed. 1981 was proclaimed as the International Year for the Disabled. On a strong plea made by the then Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, a question on physically handicapped was canvassed during the Houselisting Operations of 1981 Census inspite of serious reservations expressed by the then Census Commissioner on the ability of the Census to collect reliable data on this characteristic. When the results of 1981 Census were finally available, it was felt that there was considerable under enumeration of physically handicapped persons. The 1981 Census results also supported the views expressed by the earlier Census Commissioners that, by their sheer design and nature, the Census Operations do not lend themselves to the determination or identification of people with special and infrequent characteristics of this nature. It was felt that the enumeration of the physically handicapped continued to be beyond the scope and capacity of Census Operations.

Threat by Fundamentalists

1445. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that religious fundamentalist activities and organisations endanger national unity and social harmony;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the growth of such organisations and activities in the country; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb such fundamentalist activities and organisations?